

## *The Life and Times Of Jane Croshaw Scott McKendry*

*Editor's Note: The following narrative story is blended with information from Ellen Scott Dimitri, her brother, Murray Scott and their cousin, Nancy Johnson Sims. It might at times appear as a conversation but it was not that. It is more a slice and dice mixture of comments.*

*I have added additional photos supplied by Ken Scott and rearranged all the information into (at least what I believe to be) a cohesive order. I have also added some information from my own research and documents and photos. Editorially comments will appear in brackets. The story has been grammatically altered for punctuation and spelling.*



*Marvin: Our story begins after Jane Croshaw and Alfred Scott had met and married on Apr 3, 1928. Alfred and Jane met in Saskatchewan after the Croshaw family had migrated to Greenville. Her brother, Robert Hamilton Croshaw had already passed away (1927). Her oldest sister, Ester Croshaw Warren was living in Vegreville, Alberta with her husband Robert Warren. Jane was the youngest living member of the family of Dora Cuddie Croshaw and George Croshaw at the time.*

*Ellen: I was going to tell you a little more about my mother, (Jane Margueritta Croshaw Scott McKendry). You can use what you want for your story.*

*She told me about the bad times in the 30's-40's. How she made the kids underwear, sleepwear, etc. out of flour sacks! At that time flour came in material sacks. I googled that and discovered that due to the many people using them for clothing the flour company actually changed to using different coloured prints for their sacks!*



*Marvin: Alfred and Jane had seven children. They were as follows:*

- 1. Florence Ethel Scott (1926-1970)*
- 2. Lillian Ruth Scott (1928-1990)*
- 3. Percy Rae Scott (1931-1994)*
- 4. Murray Lloyd Scott (1933-2006)*
- 5. Ruby Ella Scott (1935-2005)*
- 6. Sidney George Scott (1938-1986)*
- 7. Robert James Scott (1946-2008)*
- 8. Jane Ellen (b.1948)*

*Murray: I will go back as far as I can remember. The first I recollect was living in the Greenville Community, Sask with Grandma and Grandpa Croshaw (George and Dora Croshaw). We were there when Grandma (Dora) passed away. (1937).*

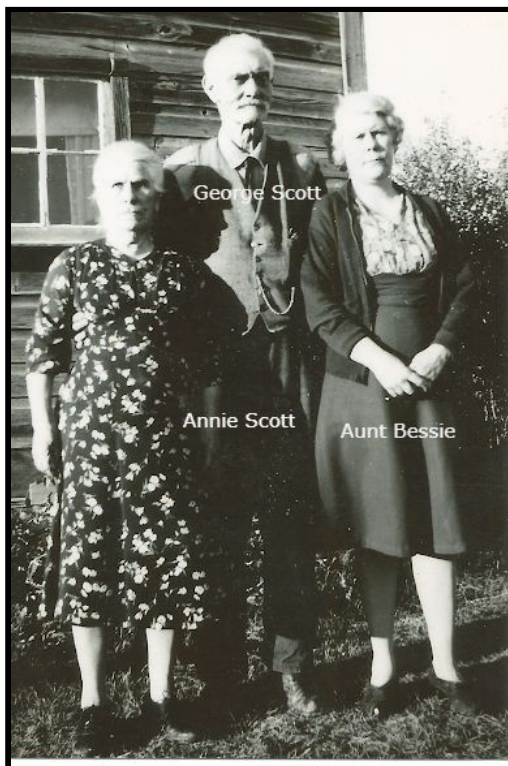
Marvin: It would appear then, that they were living with or at least on the same property as George and Dora. I believe that George Croshaw sold his property and moved to Vegreville to be closer to his oldest daughter, Ester.

Murray: We then moved to Scott's Lake, South of Candiak, Saskatchewan. We lived there for a year or so. The best I remember about that time was a barrel of nice apples in the cellar of the house. They had water piped from a spring up on a hill. It ran to a tank in the barn and overflowed out the other side.

Marvin: At this point, Jane and Alfred must be living with George and Annie Scott, Alfred's parents.

Murray: They had blizzards that were so bad they had to have a rope to the house from the barn to find their way out and back again. From there we moved to

Candiak where Dad (Alfred Scott) worked in the hardware store for a couple of years. I started school there. A one room school. It had a man teacher Mr. Bolzer. He was mean.



In grade two, we moved again to Greenville and then back to Candiak when Dad joined the army in 1939. I believe we were there a couple of years. Percy and I and two friends spent a lot of time picking up scrap metal and old animal bones. All were sold in town and shipped out to make ammunition and and glue.

Nancy: During the war certain things were rationed (tea, coffee, sugar, alcohol, and gas). People were issued coupon books. Jane used these coupons very carefully to make things stretch as far as possible. She spent all one spring and summer digging and drying Senega root which she sold. It was used to make a cough mixture. After working all this time, she had enough money to buy a case of peaches so her family could have some fruit in the winter. She raised a large garden and at the end of summer she had jars of vegetables lined up on the shelves like little soldiers.

What a good feeling, her family would eat for the winter! Jane tried to make things pretty. She had morning glories growing on the house and hollyhocks grew in the yard.



Ellen: Mom, (Jane) made her own lard, butter and grew her own garden! Times were tough then and they were allotted coupons for staples like sugar, flour etc! She talked of trading coupons with others when she needed certain things!

Murray: Mother (Jane) then bought a quarter section of land at Moffet, Saskatchewan. There was no barn. It had a one room house fourteen by twenty. Grandpa Scott (George Scott) moved a granary onto the property. Grandpa Scott and Grandma Scott (Annie Kenny Scott) lived in that one room. He built a garage for his car also. A 1927 Dodge I think.

Grandpa (George Scott) and Mother (Jane) built another room at the rear of our house, ten by fourteen. That was a bedroom and laundry. We had a lever type washer and later a gas powered washing machine.

Next was to build a barn from cut trees and straw. We built double walls and tramped them full of straw, we had two cows, pigs, chickens and ducks. There next came a team of horses we bought from Uncle Walt Ferguson. They were named Mac and Ben. That was our transportation until after the war. We were six miles from Candiac and nine miles from Wolseley.



Murray: We had a buggy for summer and a sleigh for winter. We went to Moffet School which was a mile and a half. In the summer we walked and in the winter walked or caught a ride with neighbors when we could.

Nancy: I remember Sidney telling me about the wolves following the sleigh as they travelled in the winter time. They had a large pile of ashes out behind the toilet and the coyotes would sit on the ash pile and howl at night. It made me shiver to think of it. There is nothing like the howl of a coyote to make a person's blood run cold.

Murray: We had a one room school with a basement. It was heated with a coal furnace. We shared the responsibility with other students to arrive early to get the fire going and the school warmed. Some mornings it was so cold we would march around to keep warm. We had up to thirty students with one teacher, grades one through eight were regular classes and nine through twelve were by correspondence.

We played hockey on a slough a quarter of a mile away. We had to remove snow from the ice with shovels. We also had community skate parties on evenings and weekends. In the summer we played a little soccer or football but mostly it was fastball (softball). We had a mixed team, boys and girls, and competed at field days. We did very well for a country school and had many ribbons, also broad jump, hop skip and jump, one hundred yard dash, three legged race and high jump.

Nancy: They loved to go to dances. The whole family, young and old, would go together. They would dance and dance and as the children got tired, they would fall asleep on the benches or on coats that were laid out on the floor. Our family was called had the "Dancing Scotts". Oh, how they loved to dance. They had bingos at the community hall. They had whist tournaments. They would go to each others' homes and play cribbage and crokinole.

Marvin: George Croshaw moved to Vegreville, Alberta. He passed away in 1943 and is buried there.



Murray: We would have to get up around seven am, do chores, have breakfast and get to school by nine am. We took lunch to school. We used land buckets or syrup pails. In the early years of my schooling I remember many days of bread and land sandwiches. After the war started, things got much better.

One day a young injured owl came to us. We nursed it and it became a pet, but it came to a sad end as we found it dead in the rain barrel.

We read and did our homework by the light from a kerosene lamp for a long time. After the war Percy and I walked the ditches picking up bottles until we had enough money to buy a gas lantern. We used it in the house and also took it to the barn to do chores. That was great as the wind used to blow out the kerosene lanterns.

Dad was a fun man but could also be very strict when needed. He spent the war years at Hull, Quebec, guarding prisoners. He got along with them well. One prisoner, an artist (J. Quilfeldt), did a portrait of him.

While on guard duty walking the halls, and after an extra long shift in very bad weather, he ended up in the hospital with a very bad cold. While in the hospital, with windows open, a severe cold storm came and he caught pneumonia. They discharged him (Dec 30, 1944) with chronic bronchitis, his condition worsened after he arrived home and he spent most of the last year in hospitals until he passed away (in 1949). That was when penicillin was coming into use, but too late.



Marvin: Alfred Scott was awarded The War Medal for his service during WWII.

Ellen: After Dad (Alfred Scott) died (1949), Mom was left with 6 children, with me being only a year old and Bobby almost 4. Mom did what she felt she needed to do to keep

things together. She answered an ad in the paper for a mail order bride.

She then left Bob and I in the care of the other 4 kids (Florence and Ruth were already married, so that would be Percy aged 18, Murray aged 16, Ruby aged 14 and Sidney aged 11) and went to Lethbridge to meet him! I didn't hear about this until, of course, years later.

Ken: I remember Grandma telling me about having to take Bobby to the hospital because of a high fever. It was very scary for her Bobby was about 3 yrs old and very sick. It was very cold and if I remember right the hospital was 20 miles away? And it was -30. I think she took Sidney with her as well.

Ellen: She returned to the farm, sold everything and packed us off to stay with Uncle Gove (Lansdowne Croshaw) in Lethbridge and married Les McKendry in 1951. Things didn't work out as expected. She booted Les out and that's when she bought the property in Magrath as mentioned in Nancy's book.

Murray: We moved to Lethbridge in October of 1951. Ellen was one year old; I was eighteen.

Marvin: George Scott also passed away in 1951. It is possible that Jane felt she had no recourse at this point. Annie Scott would live another 8 years. It is unknown where she lived for this time.

Ellen: Ken thinks she (Jane) had worked in Marquis Hotel in Lethbridge but my earliest memory was of her working in the canning factory in Magrath.

Murray: In 1952, Mother (Jane) bought the place in Magrath and we moved there.

Ellen: Later, Jane took many cooking jobs. A coffee shop called The Greasy Spoon, then The Magrath Trading Company at the coffee bar, doing great lunches etc! The company was owned by the McIntyre family. From there the family hired her to work at their cattle ranch as they needed a good cook. She worked at their sheep ranch as well, off and on for many years.

Nancy: Jane was a good cook. A talent that we, her family, got to enjoy over the years. Though she went after what she wanted, she was a relaxed person. She wasn't a worrier.

Ellen: Mom also worked as cook at various hotels in Alberta, even a logging camp in northern British Columbia which was accessible only by small plane and then tug boat.

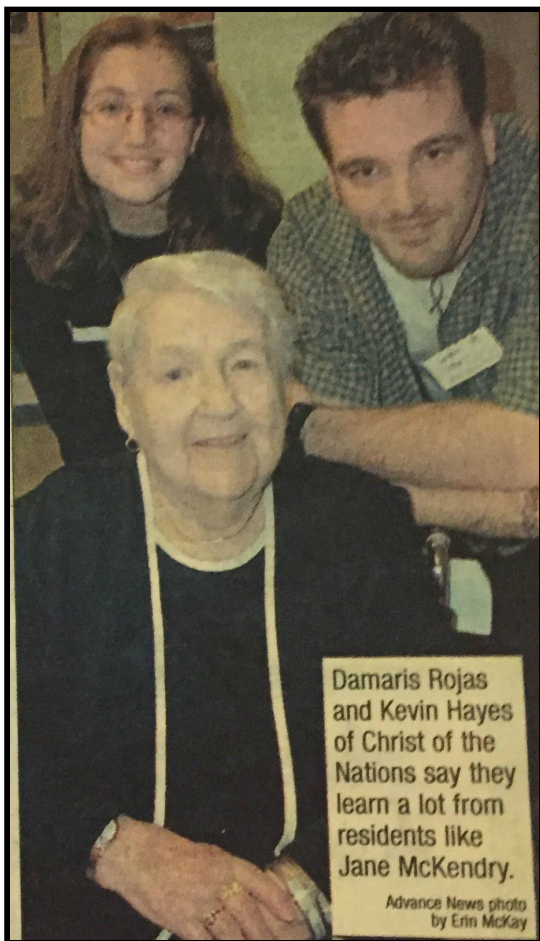




Marvin: Annie Scott passed away in 1959. She is buried in Greenville cemetery beside her husband George Scott.

Ellen: Bob and I were allowed to spend our summer holidays with her (Jane) usually but stayed with our older siblings and their families the rest of the time. In 1960-61 she took a job as baker on *The Northland Prince*, a cruise ship making weekly trips to Hyder, Alaska from Vancouver. She worked 3 weeks on and one week off and stayed at my sister Florence's in between. I talked Murray and Edith into taking me with them when they went for a visit.

I talked Mom into letting me stay there and go to school in 1962. Of course, Mom only stayed another year but really enjoyed the cruises! She then returned to Alberta and went back to work at the ranch for awhile before she retired. Mom spent her time going between Saskatchewan, Albert and BC to visit her family. She was hard worker and a very strong loving person.



At the age of 91 (1997), Mom moved in with us in Langley. She was starting to have memory issues and had a stroke about a year later (1998). Because my husband and I both worked, the doctor didn't want her to be left alone, so we moved Mom into Langley Lodge where she stayed until her death in 2003. Murray, Ruby and Bob came to visit at different times and she had lots of grandkids there as well.

Ellen: I was going through Jane's address book and came across a couple of Warrens. One on the island who had passed away (Robert) and I believe Everett Warren who actually lived in Langley also.

I believe he lived with his daughter! Anyway we had quite a few phone conversations, then one day he came to my home and handed me that clock! He was in and out so fast it was actually funny! I don't know why he gave it to me as we

were still figuring out who we were, lol!

Marvin: Everett and Robert Warren were Jane's Nephews. They were both son's of Esther Croshaw and Robert Warren. Esther was Jane's oldest sister. Everett Warren was their youngest boy.



Ellen: He did call Mom, Aunt Jane and did go see her, although by that time my Mom didn't remember him so I couldn't get answers from her!

I packed the clock away and we moved to the Okanogan where I met a new cousin, Jim Garrett but he couldn't help me with the Warren family either!

Ellen: I sent you the newspaper clipping of her. She loved the music hour and sang alongside the best and taught them many verses to many old songs! They said they didn't know there were so many verses lol! While she was there she had visits from Jim and Dale Garrett and from Everett Warren! I didn't know anything about that until a few years later because her memory was not good and didn't mention the visits!

Over the years, in her spare time, she knitted and quilted. We all benefited from this as we had beautiful hand made quilts and she made beautiful heavy indian sweaters. I have a quilt she made out of scraps of old clothing that she cut and pieced together. I look at it and see bits of her old dress, apron or blouse etc! Brings back memories! So, she still brings comfort to me. She taught me to knit and crochet and I've tried to pass that on to my grandkids.

Ellen: John and I moved to West Kelowna 7 years ago (2012) from Langley when we retired. Love it here. Thanks to Mom, I have nieces and nephews in BC and Alberta! Ken's Mom lives in Raymond and I keep in touch with her so we compare notes lol.

I have to say my Mom was a wonderful cook and was only out of a job when she needed a break or needed to go off and visit family! Mom left a legacy of family and love and I still learn little things about her from her many grandkids! Something she said or did with them! She was dearly loved and still very missed and remembered by her many grandkids!!

Nancy: Theirs was a wholesome life. The air was fresh, the crops were not sprayed as they are now. They were hard workers. They had a sense of family. They took care of each other. Surrounded by their Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins they grew up safe and secure in a cocoon of love.

Ellen: Thanks to Ken's desire to dig into ancestry, he is gradually getting some answers! So now he's in contact with you and I believe the Garret's who are also into this!

Ellen: Hope this helped you know her a bit!

Marvin: It certainly did!! Jane Margueritta Croshaw Scott McKendry passed away September 23, 2003. Jane was the last of her siblings to pass away.



SCOTT

JAMES A. JANE M.

PTE 132464 (NEE CROSHAW)

1898 - 1949 1906 - 2003

IN LOVING MEMORY